



# Lion Tamer

*Western Winter - Blushing Dove by Comic Blush*

Stakes winners are the currency by which stallions are judged. It may come as a surprise that in any given year even the best of them will only have a number of stakes winners that can easily be expressed in single figures. Less than ten a year, in other words, of both sexes. Which is a good illustration of just how difficult it is to collect the coveted black type. It also leads us to assume that stakes winners as a group will represent a stallion's best, and that evaluating them might help unearth valuable information about what sort of mares suit the sire best.

**T**ake Western Winter. Multiple champion sire. Sire of two consecutive Horses of the Year. Sire (to May 2008) of 14 individual Gr1 winners. Let's try and group them, while keeping in mind that Western Winter himself doubles genetic equivalents Tamerett (Tim Tam x Mixed Marriage) and Impressive (Court Martial x High Voltage).



**Champion 2yo Fearless, Champion 2yo Argonaut, Champion 2yo elect Warm White Night, and Fair Maiden.**

Three of them by sons of Averof. Fearless' grandam is by Persian Wonder (Persian Gulf x Petition). Warm White Night, fourth dam by Abadan (Persian Gulf) out of a mare by Petition. Fair Maiden, 4<sup>th</sup> dam by Abadan. Argonaut's grandam is by Abadan. Note that Abadan is by Persian Gulf out of a mare by Fair Trial, and that Petition is by Fair Trial.

Now consider that Western Winter doubles Mixed Marriage and genetic equivalent Impressive (by Court Martial), the pair genetic equivalents of Averof - and this threesome in turn genetic equivalents of the dam of Abadan. Interestingly, the pedigrees of Fearless and Warm White Night are virtually the same. Argonaut's damsire Del Sarto is a close relative of Secrettame.

**Roxanne, Set Afire, Nania.**

The dam of Nania is half sister to Set Afire. Roxanne's dam is by Royal Chalice, who is half brother to the dam of Set Afire. All of which leads to the female line of the trio, notably Port Wine, dam of Royal Chalice. She is by Plum Bold out of Flame. Plum Bold is a genetic relative of Secrettame (dam of Gone West), Flame is a genetic relative of Mixed Marriage (Secrettame's grandam). Flame's dam Flaming Heath is a Court Martial genetic equivalent. Set Afire has an added benefit: his dam is by Northfields whose damsire Occupy is a genetic relative of Tamerett.

**Horse of the Year Winter Solstice, Champion 2yo Ice Cube.**

Their dams both have Lyphard close up. The latter's dam Goofed is a Mixed Marriage and Impressive equivalent. Winter Solstice' grandam is by Drum Beat (equivalent of Mixed Marriage) out of a mare by Abadan. Ice Cube's damsire Trigger Finger is by Lyphard out of Royal Suite, by Majestic Prince. Ice Cube's second dam is by Peaceable Kingdom. The latter is genetic equivalent of Majestic Prince (and of Northern Dancer). Royal Suite is the equivalent of Mr Prospector. Curious to know what other Western Winter x Trigger Finger horses there are? Only two Trigger Finger mares ever visited him: Annie (dam of Ice Cube and Jagged Ice), and Lady Of The Dawn (dam of Blizzard and Arctic Gem, both useful but unsound winners).

**Horse of the Year Yard-Arm, Champion stayer Reveille Boy.**

Both are out of mares by Dancing Champ. Gone West's grandam Tamerett is by Tim Tam out of Mixed Marriage. Tamerett is a genetic equivalent of Mrs Peterkin, dam of Dancing Champ. Yard-Arm's grandam has a double of genetic equivalents Supreme Court and Court Martial, leading back to Mixed Marriage and Impressive. The grandam of Reveille Boy is by Peaceable Kingdom out of Lily Rose, the latter by Royal Affair (Court Martial) out of a mare by High Powered who is a half brother to Impressive, making Lily Rose and Impressive close genetic relatives.

## PICK OF THE BUNCH

*Suitable mares for Lion Tamer could include*

1. Mares with Tom Fool clan members (Tom Fool, Buckpasser, Nijinsky, Blushing Groom, etc - notably through Dancing Champ)
2. Mixed Marriage/Court Martial affiliates (notably through Averof, Foveros, Sharpen Up - possibly on backgrounds of Persian Wonder, Abadan, Drum Beat, Tudor Melody/ Tudor Minstrel, etc)
3. Mares with Lyphard close up, notably Trigger Finger, Melun, Elliodor
4. Mares with Royal Chalice or his female line elements (Plum Bold, Port Wine)
5. Mares with Badger Land
6. Mares with descendants of At Loose Ends/Pretty Falcon
7. Mares with Occupy (Northfields, Habitat)
8. Mares with Del Sarto (or other Bold Bidder, and equivalent Secretariat, eg Goldkeeper)

**Finally, three unrelated singles: Surveyor, Bad Girl Runs and On Her Toes.**

Surveyor's grandam is by Con Brio, whose dam Petronella is a Mixed Marriage & Court Martial equivalent. Surveyor's dam is by Northfields, whose damsire Occupy is a Tamerett equivalent.

The grandam of Bad Girl Runs is by Sharpen Up, a son of Atan who is by Native Dancer out of Mixed Marriage. Bad Girl's grandam doubles Mixed Marriage and equivalent Tudor Melody.

The dam of 2008 2yo Gr1 winner On Her Toes is by Badger Land out of Pretty Falcon, by Accipiter out of At Loose Ends. There's a double whammy here. Gone West and At Loose Ends are genetic equivalents. And the dam of Gone West, Tamerett, is equivalent of Minnatonka. The latter is grandam of Badger Land's sire Codex. Interesting to note the sires of Pretty Falcon's top son Follow The Falcon (Foveros) and daughter Savannah Queen (Flaming Rock).

For suitable mares for Western Winter, there seems much to be gained by sticking to the patterns outlined above.

**O**n to Lion Tamer, not quite a Gr1 winner, but twice Gr1 runner-up, in the J&B Met and Summer Cup. His pedigree runs true to form.

Lion Tamer's dam Blushing Dove is by Comic Blush, who has genetic equivalents Spring Run (dam of Red God) and Tom Fool (sire of Silly Season). Silly Season links to Western Winter, as he's a genetic equivalent to Tamerett.

The dam of Blushing Dove is Have Faith, a daughter of Spanish Air, who is the equivalent of Mixed Marriage.

Lion Tamer's fourth dam is by Ankara, who is a genetic relative of Impressive.

All these female line elements also link together. Blushing Groom is the equivalent of Tudor Melody (sire of Spanish Air), the pair 2x3 in Blushing Dove.

Have Faith also has a 2x3 genetic relatives cross: Tudor Melody x Ankara.

Finally Blushing Groom's dam Runaway Bride and Lion Tamer's third dam Cross Roads have much in common.

## Where From Here

The obvious answer is to stick with the affinities shown by Lion Tamer's sire Western Winter, while paying attention also to the crosses noted in Lion Tamer's female line, Blushing Groom and Tudor Melody possibly of special value.

Otherwise it boils down to Tom Fool clan members which encompass Tom Fool, Buckpasser, Nijinsky, Blushing Groom, and others. Dancing Champ looks a good option. Then there are the Mixed Marriage/Court Martial affiliates, notably through Averof, Foveros, Sharpen Up - possibly on backgrounds of Persian Wonder, Abadan, Drum Beat, Tudor Melody/Tudor Minstrel, etc.

Combinations of the two groups mentioned may be first prize, noting the way they came together in Western Winter, through Tamerett and Impressive 3x3.

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